

REMARKS

The above-identified application is United States application serial number 09/810,965 filed on March 17, 2001. Claims 1-14 are allowed. Claims 15-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 15-17 are also rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Pecone et al.

Rejection of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. §112

Regarding the rejection of Claims 15-17 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention, the applicants have amended the claims to add structural connections sufficient to clarify structural cooperation relationships.

Rejection of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Regarding the rejection of Claims 15-17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Pecone et al, the applicants' amendments in response to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, add specification of structures that distinguish over Pecone et al. In particular, Pecone et al. does not disclose bus controller cards controlling addressing independent of the bus connections to the backplane connectors.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, Applicant believes Claims 1-17 are in form for allowance and a notice to that effect is solicited. No new matter has been added. In the event it would facilitate prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (949) 251-0250.

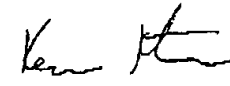
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO. Central Number at (703) 872-9306 on the date shown below

(Signature)

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April 21, 2004
(Date)

Respectfully submitted,



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